

Recycling and Refuse Management Committee
Foam Free Subcommittee Meeting
July 12, 2012

Present: Cynthia Brubaker (LWV), Cristina Cox Fernandes, Brenda K. Davies, Sue Morrello, Katy van Geel (LWV), Susan Waite

1. Approved minutes from May 31 meeting.
2. Identified contents of interview kit/information packet
 - this packet is to present to businesses using foam
 - talking points
 - SEE SUSAN W's notes (attached)
3. Update on visit to Smith Paper Co., in Greenfield
 - Sue M., Cynthia and Susan met with owner about buying coop
 - Owner will crunch numbers about costs of environmental products
 - Owner to talk to his distributor about setting up a coop buying program
 - Each restaurant would have own account with bulk discount benefits
 - Card-board products can be 3x more pricey than foam (casual guessimate)
 - Owner to give a sample packet for us to present to restaurants
 - Cynthia to call owner to follow up on Monday 7-16-12
4. Discussion of how towns pay for trash bags and landfill
 - Higher trash bag price in Amherst due to no other income revenue
 - Belchertown charges same for bag (Sue confirm) and more (\$100) for access to transfer station
 - South Hadley and Noho have active landfills that generate income so cheaper bags
5. Update on Meeting with Julie Federman, director of Health Dept.
 - Cynthia and Susan W. met with Julie
 - Julie suggests Foam committee members to attend a September meeting to present our case
 - Alex Krogh-Grabbe, head of new BID (Business Improvement District), is interested in working on this issue with us
 - Julie stated few studies on carcinogenetic quality of EPS, however there is a "Precautionary Principle" to avoid potential hazard
6. Project timeline will be discussed at next meeting (date to be determined)

“Flipchart” notes from interview kit/info package discussion

Intro letter sent prior (short)

Package info:

- Goal: We want to ban EPS from Amherst restaurants (wordsmith)
- EPS sample & alternatives: samples, prices, vendors, cooperative concept
- Talking points (outline for interviewer)
 - Foam Committee recommendation (include FCnty handout w/pictures?)
 - Arguments (address)
 - EPS recyclable
 - Too expensive (coop, hardship, start date use up stock)
 - Can't compost in Amherst (RRMC is working on composting-next major goal, DEP institutional ban)
 - No proof EPS is carcinogenic (cite scientific paper, precautionary principle)
 - Assurances (see “Too expensive” above)
 - Enforcement
 - Questions to get interviewees engaged
 - Info about Bulletin incentive ad
- Doc to leave them with summarizing key points